

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW *EUPHONIA* FROM THE
SOUTHERN WEST INDIES.

BY AUSTIN H. CLARK.

On examining a series of ten specimens of *Euphonia flavifrons* (Sparrm.) obtained by myself on the island of St. Vincent, and comparing them with specimens from Dominica, I find certain constant differences in color, which, taken in connection with the uniformly small size, seem to warrant a subspecific separation.

Unfortunately in the original description of the species (Sparrman, Mus. Carls. IV, No. 92, 1789) no type locality is given; but as it appears to be more probable that the earlier specimens came from the large and important northern islands (Guadeloupe, Dominica, and Martinique) rather than from the small and less known islands of St. Vincent and Grenada, I have decided to give a new name to the southern form, thus restricting *E. f. flavifrons* to the St. Bartholomew-Dominica group. The southern bird may therefore be known as

Euphonia flavifrons viscivora * subsp. nov.

Type from Kingstown, St. Vincent, W. I. No. 12,687, adult male, coll. E. A. and O. Bangs. October 29, 1903. Austin H. Clark, collector.

Characters.—Resembles *E. f. flavifrons* from Dominica, but is smaller, darker, and generally brighter, with the black on sides of the head replaced by dark green, the throat and forehead deeper and more orange in color, the back clearer green, and not tinged with bluish, and the underparts

**Viscum*, mistletoe. This bird feeds largely on the berries of a plant called locally "mistletoe," and is therefore known on St. Vincent as the "Mistletoe Bird."

more yellowish, especially on the abdomen and under tail coverts. The rump is also considerably brighter, inclining to wax yellow, and not dull olive, as in the Dominica bird.

Color.—Adult male: Forehead gamboge yellow, margined posteriorly by a transverse line or bar of black; crown, occiput, and hind neck uniform light turquoise blue, this color extending down behind the auriculars to the upper breast; back, scapulars, wing coverts, and upper tail coverts uniform olive green; rump bright olive yellowish; primaries, secondaries and rectrices dusky, margined with olive green; lores black; suborbital, auricular and malar regions dark olive green, becoming lighter toward throat; chin and throat lemon yellow, brightest on chin, and shading into the green of the breast posteriorly; underparts yellowish olive green, becoming more yellowish on abdomen and under tail coverts; under wing coverts yellowish white; bill black, with basal portion of mandible grayish. Iris brown. Feet brownish gray.

Adult female: Similar, but paler and duller throughout; forehead lemon yellow, bordered posteriorly with a line of dark olive green; chin and throat paler and slightly greenish; sides of head yellowish olive green; crown and occiput slightly paler than in the male.

One specimen, apparently immature, has the blue of the head mixed with olive green. A male from Martinique and another from St. Lucia agree in color with the St. Vincent birds.

MEASUREMENTS.

Sex.	Locality.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
Male	St. Bartholomew.*	61.5	38.9	15.5
"	Guadeloupe (average of three).*	64.8	39.6	16.3
"	Laudat, Dominica.	66	44	16
"	Martinique.	63	43	14
"	" *	62.7	38.6	16
"	St. Lucia (average of two).*	61	37.6	16.5
"	St. Vincent.*	65	41.1	16
"	Kingstown, St. Vincent.	62	38	16
"	" "	62	38	16
"	" "	62	38	16
"	" "	63	38	16
"	" "	62	39	16
"	" "	62	38	16
"	" "	63	39	16
"	Grenada (average of two).*	62	38.6	16.3
Female	Guadeloupe (average of two).*	62.2	38.1	16.5
"	Dominica (average of four).*	64.5	39.6	16.8
"	Laudat, Dominica.	64	40	17
"	Martinique.*	61.7	36.1	17
"	St. Lucia (average of two).*	59.9	37.3	16.5
"	Kingstown, St. Vincent.	60	36	16
"	" "	62	37	16
"	" "	62	38	16

*Taken from Ridgway, *Birds North and Middle Am.*, II, p. 16, 1902.

The average measurements of male specimens from each island as brought out by this table are:

Locality.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
St. Bartholomew (1)	61.5	38.9	15.5
Guadeloupe (3)	64.8	39.6	16.3
Dominica (1)	66	44	16
Martinique (2)	62.8	40.8	15
St. Lucia (2)	61	37.6	16.5
St. Vincent (8)	62.5 *	38.6 †	16
Grenada (2)	62	38.6	16.3

* Omitting the first, apparently abnormally large specimen, 62.2.

† Omitting the first specimen, 38.3.

Although the number of specimens (32) is too small to allow of any conclusive results, the birds from Martinique-Grenada may be said to be a smaller race than those from the north. Admitting the color into consideration, we find that *Euphonia flavifrons* in the Lesser Antilles shows variations comparable to those of *Vireosylva calidris*, which species is represented by the large and rather pale *V. c. calidris* from Dominica northward (a form in which, as in *E. flavifrons flavifrons*, the color of the crown and occiput tends to grade into the color of the back), while from Martinique to Grenada the form *V. c. barbadense*, smaller, clearer, and somewhat darker occurs.

I have not examined the specimen from St. Bartholomew. It may be abnormally small, or may represent still another race, as in regard to this species that island is in an apparently isolated position, no *Euphonia* having as yet been found on Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts, or Nevis.

The habitat of *Euphonia flavifrons viscivora* may be given as Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Martinique. The range of the species is, in addition, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Antigua, Barbuda, and St. Bartholomew. Possibly it may yet be found on Nevis and St. Kitts, or on the higher altitudes of St. Eustatius, as it is a bird which is, from its small size and retiring habits, very easy to overlook.